

**THE RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CONVENTION CENTER COMMITTEE MEETING**

**May 29, 2012**

**A meeting of the Convention Center Committee of the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority Board of Commissioners was held on May 29, 2012, pursuant to notice at the Rhode Island Convention Center, One Sabin Street, Providence, Rhode Island.**

**Board members present were Committee Chairman, Jeff Hirsh, Dale Venturini, Scott Gunn and Paul MacDonald.**

**Also in attendance were Jim McCarvill and Betty Sullivan, RICCA; Tim Muldoon, Deb Tuton and Nancy Beauchamp, RICC; Steve Habl, VETS; Larry Lepore, DDC; Bruce Leach, Legal Council, Mike Abbott, Newport Collaborative; Michael Nugent, House Finance and Eileen Smith, recording secretary.**

**Mr. Hirsh called the meeting to order at 1:25 PM. Mr. Hirsh asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May Convention Center Committee meeting. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. MacDonald and seconded by Ms. Venturini it was unanimously**

**VOTED:           to approve the minutes of the May meeting**

**Mr. Hirsh recognized Mr. Muldoon and asked that he address the**

**Committee. Mr. Muldoon stated that the unfavorable variance for the month is due to lower than expected event, food & beverage and parking revenue because of the timing of the Home Show, lower than anticipated revenues for NELMS and Alpha Kappa Alpha. Mr. Muldoon said that some of the unfavorable variance was offset by savings in operational labor and electricity. Mr. Muldoon reported that the Convention Center's variance to budget should be corrected by year end. Mr. Hirsh asked if the Home Show generates the most revenue for the facility. Mr. Muldoon answered that the Flower Show continues to be the biggest revenue generator of the public shows. Mr. Muldoon noted that everyone is gearing up for NETROOTS and preparing our internet capacity to handle so many bloggers. Mr. Muldoon said that the system has been tested and is adequate for their needs.**

**Mr. Muldoon noted that Ms. Tuton is looking into natural gas prices to see if we can take advantage of any special deals in order to lower our utility bills.**

**Mr. Hirsh reported that the Parking Garage will be taking a hit because of 38 Studios. Mr. MacDonald asked how much they owe us.**

**Mr. Muldoon said that they owe approximately \$80,000. He said that we should have been paying closer attention to the situation but they were contacted and we were informed that the bills would be paid.**

**Mr. Gunn asked if a reason was given for not being current with their bills. Mr. Muldoon said that no excuses were given. Mr. McCarvill**

said that the money is still owed to us. Mr. MacDonald commented that the situation is a colossal mess. Mr. Muldoon noted that Hasbro is fully paid.

## **VETS**

Mr. McCarvill presented the financial information for the VETS. He stated that the VETS has shown significant signs of improvement that we anticipate will continue.

Mr. McCarvill explained to the Committee that Phase II of the project has been delayed because of issues relating to an easement from the City. Mr. McCarvill stated that we gave the three bidders an opportunity to re-submit their bids for the project but that none came down enough in their estimate to award a contract. Discussions ensued regarding the course of action that we should pursue. Mr. McCarvill noted that we could change the scope of the project. Mr. MacDonald suggested that the project be delayed another year. Mr. McCarvill stated that we have an opportunity to do a rehearsal of a major production that we will lose. Mr. Leach noted that there is nothing that we can do until all issues with the City have been addressed. Mr. Abbott said that he had discussed the situation with the City and they recognize the merits of our arguments. He said that he did not know what the holdup is. Mr. MacDonald asked if the Mayor should be brought into this. Mr. Hirsh asked if the Chairman could be of any help. Mr. Gunn suggested that we put a letter

together outlining the issues. Mr. Hirsh said that we should ask for a speedy resolution. Mr. Leach outlined the procedures. He said that we need approval from the Public Works Department, the Police, the Tax Assessor and the appraiser. Mr. MacDonald said that he would be happy to assist. Mr. Leach also noted that this project is State funded not the Authority.

Mr. Hirsh asked if there was any further business. Hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Venturini and seconded by Mr. MacDonald it was unanimously

**VOTED: to adjourn at 2:05 PM**